



ALABAMA STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR INTERIOR DESIGN

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REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERIOR DESIGNERS

Qualifications for Registration in Alabama

- Graduation from an Interior Design program, or its equivalent as approved by the Board, having passed a minimum of 48 semester or 60 quarter hours of interior design education.
- Passage of all sections of the NCIDQ Examination.
- Shall be of good moral character.

NCIDQ Examination Eligibility Requirements

	EDUCATION	EXPERIENCE
Route 1	A bachelor's degree (minimum) from an interior design program accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA, formerly known as FIDER). The degree program must include no less than 120 semester or 180 quarter credit hours, of which no less than 60 semester or 90 quarter credit hours are interior design coursework. To qualify, the degree program must have been CIDA-accredited at the date of graduation or must have become CIDA-accredited within the two-year period following the graduation date. A list of accredited programs is available from CIDA.	No less than 3,520 hours of interior design work experience. This can be completed in approximately two years if you work full-time. Up to half of the required hours (no more than 1,760 hours) may be earned while you are still in school. You must have completed at least 96 semester or 144 quarter credit hours of education before you can begin to count work experience toward this requirement. In addition, if you receive academic credit for work experience, you cannot count that work experience toward this requirement. In all cases, the final 1,760 hours of work experience must be earned after the education program is completed.
Route 2	A bachelor's degree (minimum) in an interior design program NOT accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation. The degree program must include no less than 120 semester or 180 quarter credit hours, of which no less than 60 semester or 90 quarter credit hours are interior design coursework.	No less than 3,520 hours of interior design work experience. This can be completed in approximately two years if you work full-time. Up to half of the required hours (no more than 1,760 hours) may be earned while you are still in school. You must have completed at least 96 semester or 144 quarter credit hours of education before you can begin to count work experience toward this requirement. In addition, if you receive academic credit for work experience, you cannot count that work experience toward this requirement. In all cases, the final 1,760 hours of work experience must be earned after the education program is completed.
Route 3	A bachelor's degree (minimum) in any other major in a program of no less than 120 semester or 180 quarter credit hours, AND no less than 60 semester or 90 quarter credit hours of interior design coursework that culminates in a degree. This route is primarily intended for career changers with a bachelor's degree in another field (architecture, English, nursing, psychology, etc.) who have returned to school for an interior design degree.	No less than 3,520 hours of interior design work experience. This can be completed in approximately two years if you work full-time. Up to half of the required hours (no more than 1,760 hours) may be earned while you are still in school. You must have completed at least 96 semester or 144 quarter credit hours of education before you can begin to count work experience toward this requirement. In addition, if you receive academic credit for work experience, you cannot count that work experience toward this requirement. In all cases, the final 1,760 hours of work experience must be earned after the education program is completed.
Route 4	No less than 60 semester or 90 quarter credit hours of interior design coursework that culminates in a degree or diploma.	No less than 5,280 hours of interior design work experience. This can be completed in approximately three years if you work full-time. All work experience must be earned after the education program is completed.

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NCIDQ Examination Eligibility Requirements (continued)

	EDUCATION	EXPERIENCE
Route 5*	No less than 40 semester or 60 quarter credit hours of interior design coursework that culminates in a certificate, degree or diploma.	No less than 7,040 hours of interior design work experience. This can be completed in approximately four years if you work full-time. All work experience must be earned after the education program is completed.
*Note: This route does not qualify for IDEP entry.		

NCIDQ Examination Supervised Experience Requirement

Exam candidates who **began** accumulating their interior design work experience on or after January 1, 2008 are required to complete all of that experience under the direct supervision of an NCIDQ Certificate holder, a licensed/registered interior designer, or an architect who offers interior design services. Independent practice time and work done under the supervision of an unlicensed practitioner cannot be counted toward the work experience requirement.

The supervised experience requirement does not apply to exam candidates who **begin** to accumulate their interior design work experience on or before December 31, 2007.

This requirement is important to understand if you are a future exam applicant who is not participating in IDEP. Exam applicants who have completed IDEP will automatically satisfy the Supervised Work Experience Requirement because qualified supervision is required for IDEP participation.

NCIDQ Examination Format

The revised NCIDQ program consists of two comprehensive multiple-choice sections and a practicum section. The first of the multiple-choice sections, consisting of 100 scored questions and 25 unscored experimental questions, is titled *Principles and Practices of Interior Design*. It addresses the domains of programming, schematic design and design development. The second multiple-choice section, consisting of 125 scored questions and 25 unscored experimental questions, is titled *Contract Documents and Administration*. It addresses the domains of contract documents, contract administration and professional practice. Many questions on both of these examinations incorporate drawings, pictures, symbols and textual formats typical in the interior design profession, requiring candidates to recall, apply and analyze information. Unscored questions are not identified on the examination; candidates should give their best effort on all test questions.

The NCIDQ examination also features a practicum section, *Schematics and Design Development*, that requires candidates to produce a design solution. Candidates receive a program based on a multifunctional facility including at least three of seven areas of specialization (residential, corporate/office, hospitality, retail, healthcare, institutional and educational). All candidates for a given test date receive the same problem. The problem requires candidates to (a) interpret the program into schematics; (b) produce plan drawings; and (c) develop appropriate specifications. Work products must address the principles of universal design. The examination is scored according to standardized guidelines by Qualified Council Jurors who have completed a comprehensive training program.

NCIDQ Examination Fees

Contact NCIDQ for application fees. Late registration fees and examination cancellation fees may also apply. Please contact NCIDQ for more information. Practice design problems are available. Contact NCIDQ for costs and fees. A critiqued solution is included with each problem.

NCIDQ Examination Suggested Study Guides

Updated in 2005, the NCIDQ Examination Study Guide, 3rd Edition includes the latest information on exam structure and scoring procedures, study methods, tips from candidates and more. The Study Guide also includes new sample multiple-choice questions and a new practice design problem based on the Eastern Academy dormitory and education facility. The Eastern Academy practice design problem is exclusively available with the Study Guide. Contact NCIDQ for costs and fees.

For more information or to apply for the examination, please visit the NCIDQ website at www.ncidq.org